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ACTION SS 25

INFO SSO 00,NSCE 00,CCO 00,/025 W

O R 261165Z SEP 67 ZFF1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6317
INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T SAIGON 5061

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD LUNCH SEPT 6 WITH TRUONG THAI TON, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER KY, AT TON'S INVITATION. ALSO PRESENT WAS A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF TON WHEN LATTER WAS MINISTER OF ECONOMY (NAME NOT KNOWN) WHO WAS INTRODUCED AS A BUSINESSMAN WITH CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS IN THE TRAN VAN HUONG GVF.

TON OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT THE ELECTION OUTCOME MIGHT LEAD TO A STRONG REACTION FROM THE SUDIST ELEMENTS SINCE THEY HAD SUFFERED SUCH A HUMILIATING DEFEAT AT THE POLLS. HE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT

(3)

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THAT CONTACT BE ESTABLISHED PROMPTLY BY THIEU WITH THE DEFEATED SOUTHERN ELEMENTS AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP BE OFFERED TO SOMEONE FROM THESE GROUPS. POLITICAL COUNSELOR AGREED IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AN EARLY EFFORT BE MADE TO CREATE A GOVERNMENT BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION AND THAT CONTACT BE MADE PROMPTLY WITH THE SUDISTS IN PARTICULAR.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 12/23/81
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3. TON SAID HE HAD TALKED THAT MORNING WITH PRIME MINISTER KY ABOUT THIS SITUATION AND HE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT KY AGREED WITH HIM, ALTHOUGH TON CLAIMED THAT NO SPECIFIC NAMES WRE MENTIONED IN THAT CONVERSATION. TON WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE KNEW KY FAVORED NGUYEN PAN LOI BUT IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT LOC WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THIEU OR SUFFICIENTLY QUALIFIED FOR THE POST. TON THOUGHT THAT SOMONE FROM HUONGWJS CAMP SHOULD BE NAMED PRIME MINISTER AND HIS ASSOCIATE SUGGESTED NGUYEN VAN BONG, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION. NGUYEN LUU VIEN WAS ALSO MENTIONED AND TON SAID THAT VIEN WAS STILL ON VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH HUONG. TON AGREED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ATTRACT INDIVIDUALS FROM THE SUPPORTERS OF OTHER

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DEFEATED CANDIDATES, SUCH AS SUU AND HA THUC KY. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT THE LATTER MIGHT IN THE END BE PREPARED TO COLLABORATE DESPITE HIS STRONG ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT AND CONTINUING CRITICISM OF THE ELECTIONS.

4. POLITICAL COUNSELOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THIEU AND KY GETTING TOGETHER PROMPTLY TO CONSIDER THESE URGENT MATTERS AND ARRIVING AT SOME DECISIONS. ALSO STRESSED NECESSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DYNAMIC STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PROGRAMS FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT. TON AGREED LATTER WAS NECESSARY AND THOUGHT IT SHOLD BE ISSUED SOON SO AS TO ATTRACT PUBLIC SUPPORT. THERE WAS SOME FURTHER TALK OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THIEU AND KY AT THIS TIME AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR NOTED THAT BUI DIEM MIGHT BE HELPFUL SINCE HE WAS ABLE TO TALK WITH MANY OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED, INCLUDING BOTH KY AND THIEU. TON SAID THAT THIEU'S BORTHER KIEU HAD TRIED TO REACH HIM THAT MORNING AND THAT HE HOPED TO SEE HIM LATER IN THE DAY TO DISCUSS THIS WHOLE RANLE OF PROBLEMS.

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5. COMMENT: TON SEEMED AS CONVINCED AS KIEU THAT BROAD PARTICIPATION FROM THE DEFEATED GROUPS WAS NECESSARY AND THAT

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A SOUTHERNORE SHOULD BE APPOINTED AS PRIME MINISTERWM THE IM-
PLICATION OF HIS REMARKS WS THAT KY SHARED THESE VIEWS BUT
TON WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT THIEU AND UY HAD RALLY ADDRESSED
THE PROBLEM TOGETHERWM SUBSEQUENT TO ABOPE CONVERSATION, WE
HAVE SEEN STATE 32446 WHICH INDICATES THAT BUI DIEM IS THINKING
IN SAME GENERAL DIRECTIONS AND HAS MADE HIS VIEWS KNOWS TO
THIEU AND KY.
BUNKER

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